

# Labour Market Information Monthly

May 2010 Edition

Issue 5 Volume 7

## Education Indicators in Canada: Fact Sheets Interrupting High School and Returning to Education April 2010

A person without a high-school diploma has very limited opportunities to contribute in today's society and economy. Not completing high school represents a great loss to society and the individual. A variety of second-chance programs have been developed by provincial/territorial education ministries to offer possibilities to young adults who have left high school to complete their diplomas at older ages.

This fact sheet looks at the proportion of young adults who have left high school without a diploma and, among them, at the proportions who have returned to obtain a high-school diploma and who progressed to postsecondary education. Knowing about the progress of these students helps us to take their needs into consideration and understand the value of second-chance programs.

### What proportion ever left high school?

Looking at Canada as a whole, between 1999 and 2007, among the young adults who were followed by the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS – see note 1) 17% had interrupted their high school education at some point, mostly before the age of 18 to 20. This represents almost 210,000 high-school students who left high school somewhere along the way.

Although getting them back on track is not necessarily easy and requires investment, the data indicate that provincial/territorial second-chance programs are successful. By the ages of 26 to 28, only 6% of the YITS cohort still had not graduated from high school and had no further education. The remaining 11% had returned and either completed high school or entered postsecondary education.

In the provinces, 20% or more of young adults in Quebec, Manitoba, and Alberta indicated that they had interrupted their high-school education at some point. By December 2007, however, the proportion with no high-school diploma and no further education in these provinces had dropped to only 7 or 8%. The remaining 12 or 13% eventually returned and completed a high-school diploma, or participated in a postsecondary program without first graduating from high school. This attests to the importance of second-chance opportunities offered in these provinces, although they still had the highest proportions of young adults without a high-school diploma at the ages of 26 to 28 years.

In Canada as a whole, men were more likely than women to have left high school early: 19% compared to 16%. The gender gap is significant in Quebec, where 28% of men had left high school at some point, compared to 17% of women.

**Note 1.** The Youth in Transition Survey (YITS) followed a cohort of young people for a period of eight years, from the time they were 18 to 20 years old in 1999, through to 2007, when they were 26 to 28 years old.

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, April 29, 2010

### This Month

- Interrupting High School and Returning to Education
- Key Labour Force Statistics
- The Industry Report

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### What proportion progressed to postsecondary education?

High-school leavers can follow various pathways back into education. While some may return to high school and graduate, and then possibly go on to pursue postsecondary education, others may undertake postsecondary education without first obtaining their high-school credential.

In the group of 26- to 28-year-olds who had interrupted their high-school education at some point, over half (55%) later returned and obtained their high-school diploma. One-third carried on and participated in postsecondary education. An additional 9% participated in postsecondary education without having obtained their high-school diploma.

This fact sheet illustrates that over the longer term, a majority of young people complete high school or participate in postsecondary education. Further research on the types of postsecondary institutions and programs pursued by early high-school leavers would be of interest, including mechanisms such as prior-learning assessment and adult upgrading programs. This highlights the importance of following the education pathways of young adults to better understand the challenges they face and the progress they make.

To obtain more information about the Youth in Transition Survey (YITS), the data source used for this fact sheet, please visit the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of the Statistics Canada Web site ([www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)), survey number 4435.

In many cases, small sample sizes for the provinces limit the analysis that could be done at the provincial level.

For other tables related to education in Canada and other fact sheets that address education issues, please see [Education Indicators in Canada, Report of the Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?lang=eng&catno=81-582-X) (<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/bsolc/olc-cel/olc-cel?lang=eng&catno=81-582-X>). Please note that YITS data previously presented in PCEIP are not comparable with the data used for this fact sheet.

The Pan-Canadian Education Indicators Program (PCEIP) is an ongoing initiative of the Canadian Education Statistics Council, a partnership between Statistics Canada and the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), to provide a set of statistical measures on education systems in Canada.

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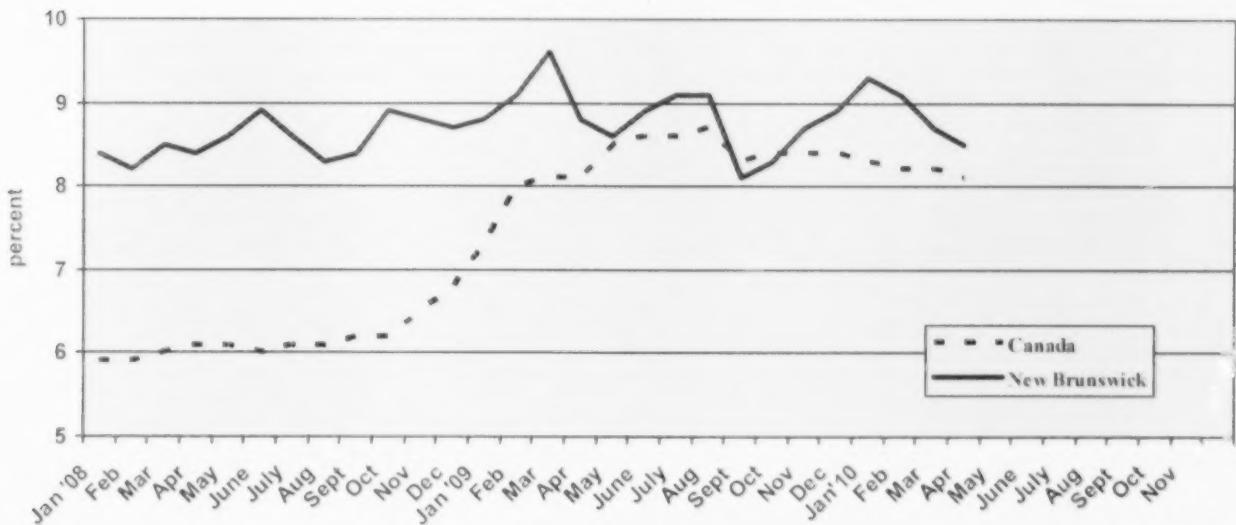
### KEY LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS FOR NEW BRUNSWICK (Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey)

New Brunswick	YTD	April '10	March '10	Apr '09
Labour Force	401,800	401,500	401,300	399,800
Employed	366,100	367,300	366,500	364,700
Unemployed	35,700	34,200	34,800	35,200
Unemployment Rate	8.9%	8.5%	8.7%	8.8%
Participation Rate	64.5%	64.4%	64.4%	64.4%
Employment Rate	58.7%	58.9%	58.8%	58.7%

### CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK

In April, Canada's unemployment rate was 8.1%, 0.1 of a percentage point lower than last month but unchanged over the same time last year. New Brunswick's rate of 8.5% was 0.2 of a percentage point lower than last month and 0.3 of a percentage point lower than the same time last year, when it also stood at 8.8%.

### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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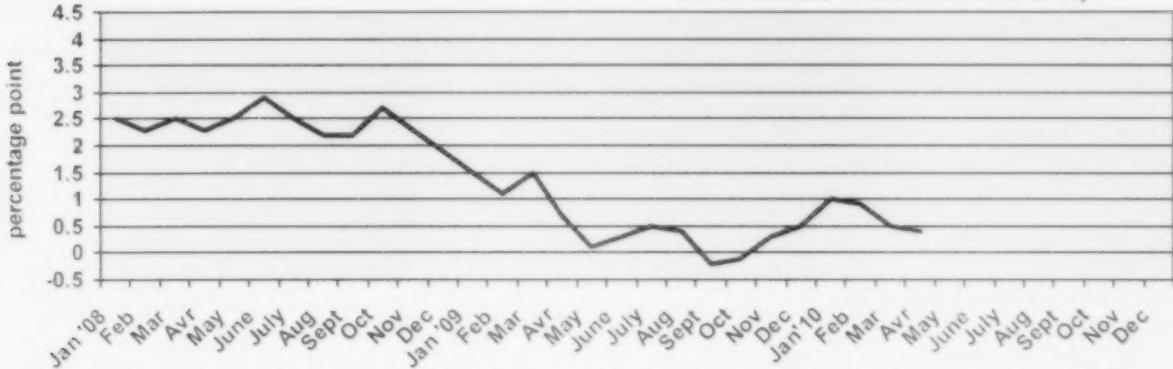
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### CANADA COMPARED TO NEW BRUNSWICK (continued)

The gap between the national and provincial rates was 0.4 of a percentage point in April.

#### DIFFERENCE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES IN NEW BRUNSWICK AND CANADA

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

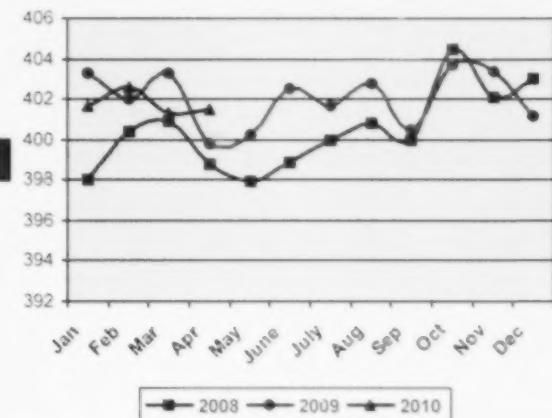


### THE LABOUR FORCE

New Brunswick's labour force stood at 401,500 in April. This represented an increase of 200 over last month, and an increase of 1,700 over the same time last year.



### THE SIZE OF THE LABOUR FORCE



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

Produced by the Labour Market Analysis Branch (LMAB) of the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training & Labour  
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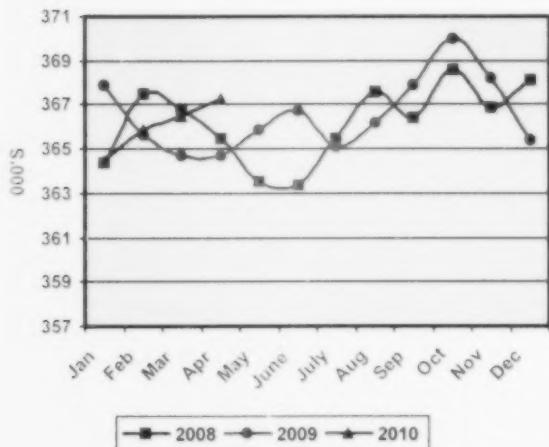
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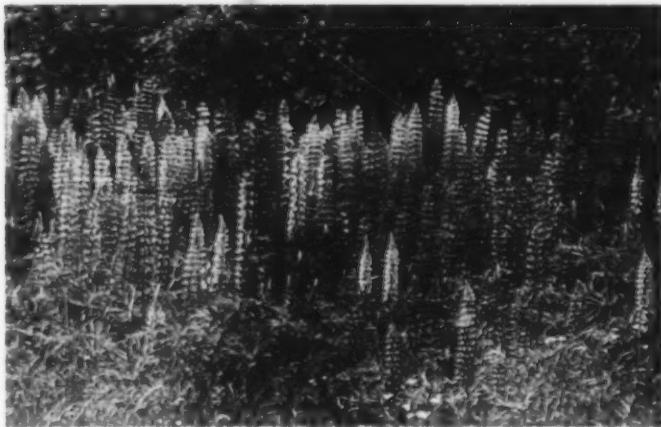
## EMPLOYMENT

There were 367,300 people working in April. This was 800 more than last month and 2,600 more when compared to the same period last year.

### EMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



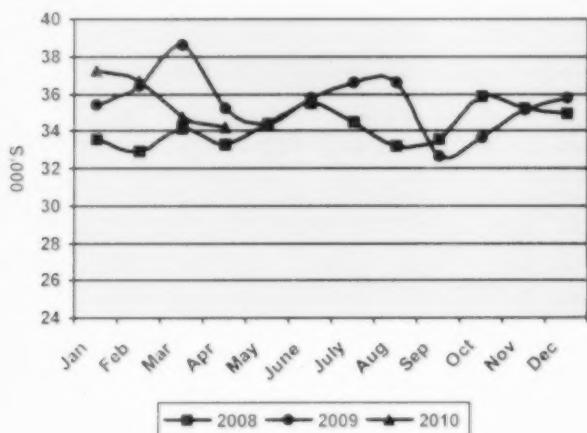
Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey



## UNEMPLOYMENT

There were 34,200 people unemployed and seeking work in April. This is 600 less people than what was recorded last month and is 1,000 less compared to the same period last year.

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey

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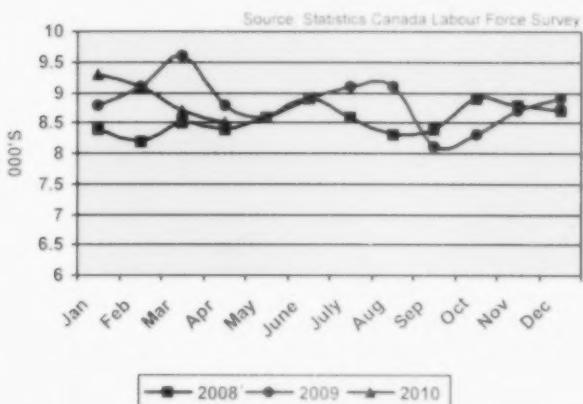
### THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

New Brunswick's unemployment rate of 8.5% in April was 0.2 of a percentage point lower than last month and was 0.3 of a percentage point lower than the same time last year.



Statistics Canada reports labour force statistics for the economic regions as three month moving averages of actual (not seasonally adjusted) data.

### THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN NEW BRUNSWICK



Economic Regions					
April'10	Northeast	Southeast	Southwest	Central	Northwest
Labour Force	70,500	111,000	93,200	75,100	41,800
Employment	58,600	102,500	84,700	69,700	37,500
Unemployment	11,900	8,500	8,500	5,400	4,300
Unemployment Rate	16.9%	7.7%	9.1%	7.2%	10.3%
Participation Rate	52.3%	65.5%	64.6%	70.3%	61.4%

Economic Regions	YTD		April'10		April'09	
	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR	Emp.	UR
Northeast	60,200	16.0%	58,600	16.9%	58,700	18.6%
Southeast	101,900	7.4%	102,500	7.7%	102,200	8.2%
Southwest	84,700	8.9%	84,700	9.1%	89,700	6.9%
Central	69,400	7.4%	69,700	7.2%	63,000	9.2%
Northwest	37,600	10.5%	37,500	10.3%	38,200	12.0%

On a year-over-year basis (April 2010 compared to April 2009), employment increased in the Central (+6,700) and Southeast (+300) economic regions while employment decreased in the Southwest (-5,000); Northwest (-700) and Northeast (-100) regions.

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## THE INDUSTRY REPORT

**Employment growth on a year-over-year basis was strongest in the following sectors\*:**

**Other Services (21.2%)** - In April of 2010, there were approximately 17,700 people employed in this sector. There are 2,200 fewer people employed in this sector than there were in April of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is the ninth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was higher than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 10 of those months (but all ten have happened in the last 12 months, suggesting this sector is on a positive trajectory). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 20.1% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (four months into the year).

**Information, culture and recreation (19.8%)** - In April of 2010, there were approximately 13,300 people employed in this sector. There are now only 1,800 fewer people employed in this sector than there were in September of 1999 (the record high for this sector). This is the eleventh consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only 12 of those months (but given eleven have happened in the last eleven months suggests this sector is on a positive trajectory). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 20.7% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (four months into the year).

**Transportation and Warehousing (12.0%)** - In April of 2010, there were approximately 20,500 people employed in this sector. There are 2,300 fewer people employed in this sector than in June of 2005 (the record high for this sector). This is only the third consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was stronger than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in

eleven of those months (seven happening in 2008). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 5.8% higher than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (four months into the year).

Includes the top three growth sectors and all sectors that posted a 10% or greater (year-over-year) increase in employment.

**Employment was weaker on a year-over-year basis in the following sectors\*\*:**

**Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-16.2%)** - In April of 2010, there were approximately 15,000 people employed in this sector. There are 3,700 fewer people employed in this sector than there were in March of 2008 (the record high for this sector). This is the seventh consecutive month that this sector has experienced a year-over-year decline in employment. Over the last 24 months this sector has recorded year-over-year employment gains nine times. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 13.8% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (four months into the year).



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### THE INDUSTRY REPORT (continued)

Agriculture (-12.8%) – In April of 2010, there were approximately 6,800 people employed in this sector. There are 2,000 fewer people employed in this sector than there were in September of 1992 (the record high for this sector). This is the fifth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 15 of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 14.5% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (four months into the year).

Public Administration (-12.2%) – In April of 2010, there were approximately 25,100 people employed in this sector. There are 3,500 fewer people employed in this sector than there were in April of 2009 (the record high for this sector). This is the seventh consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in 17 of those months (all coming in the first 17 months of this period). So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 10.6% lower than what was recorded for the same period of 2009 (four months into the year).

Business, Building and Other Support Services (-11.6%) – In April of 2010, there were approximately 19,100 people employed in this sector. There are 3,900 fewer people employed in this sector than there were in January of 2006 (the record high for this sector). This is the fifth consecutive month where the monthly employment level recorded was weaker than or tied with the equivalent month of the previous year. Over the last 24 months, employment was stronger on a year-over-year basis in only eleven of those months. So far this year (using year-to-date figures), employment is 6.4% lower than what was recorded for the same period of

